

Wales
Petersburg Vicinity
Dinwiddie County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-152

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene Bradbury, Architect in Charge
Grace Securities Building, Richmond, Virginia

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WALES (Residence)
Petersburg Vicinity, Dinwiddie County, Virginia

Owner: Peter McIlwaine and Edwin Gilliam

Date of Erection: c.1730. The two wings were built in 1752.

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Captain Howell Briggs (owner)

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Story and a half central portion and one story connections and wings.

Materials of Construction: Wooden Superstructure, Brick (flemish bond) foundations

Other Existing Records: None known

Additional Data: Henry Briggs (born c.1635; died 1686) of Surry County, Virginia; married and had issue: Henry Briggs (c.1664-1730), of Surry County; married and had issue: Howell Brigge (1709-1775), of Surry and Sussex Countiee; Captain of militia; magistrate; vestryman; married Lucy Gray, and had issue: Gray Brigge, of Sussex and Dinwiddie Counties. (Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Volume XLIV, p. 232).

Captain Howell Briggs' son, Gray Briggs, was born and reared at Wales and was active in the political affairs of the country. This home was used as officers' headquartere by the Union Army during the siege of Petereburg. As they were leaving they set this house on fire, but the fire was discovered and put out by the slavee on the place.

Upon the conclusion of his term in the House of Burgesses, Gray Brigge retired to his estate which he had inherited from his father.

The McEnery family emigrated from Ireland in the early nineteenth century, and one of thie family married a Watkins who was a descendant of the Briggs and probably lived at Wales.

A daughter of Peter McEnery married John McIlwaine. After his death she married James

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S. Gilliam. The property is now owned by two children of these marriages, Mr. Peter McIlweine and Mr. Edwin Gilliam.

The central part of the house has a gable roof with brick chimneys. The wings are unusual in that the roofs are hipped on the end where they meet the connections. The connections carry the same cornice and floor line as the wings. There are four main rooms on the first floor. The room in the west wing has a denticulated cornice. The southwest room in the center building is panelled on the west end only. The southeast room in the center building has no paneling. The main room in the east wing has a corner fireplace. One room had been used as a sheep fold.

The closed string stair is interesting in that the balusters are flat.

The porches are of a much later date.

In the rear of the house there was quite an extensive garden.

The wings which were added to each end of the main structure of the house, carry out the old English type of architecture. Several rooms in this home have hand carved paneling.

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